

Anthology of Language Minority Student Poetry



Indiana Department of Education
K-12 ESL Conference

*Teachers as Dream Builders:
Increasing Student Achievement*

March 12, 2004

WINNERS IN RED!

"Nationality"

The Pride that for too many years,
Is my nationality and my downtown
where, I born and my lord father
died.

Mexican Nationality, abundans
and creativity where I discover
my talent my family that is
as me. Mexican people Pride
at more because is us region.

The nation is where you born.
and where you grow with
your people is your Patry.

At the time of war you need to
fight for you nation like a
citycen at diferent countrys has
a diferents ruls but my nation
is Mexico (Mexico at the fighting)

- Israel C., Grade: 11
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"Teacher"

I want to be a teacher.
To teach kids math,
To add and subtract,
To help them write,
To be better in life,
To help them read.

- Stefani T., Grade: 2
Joan Martin Elementary
Hobart, Indiana

"Personal Imigration Experience"

I remember when got to a bus to
directoction to U.S.A I got out of my
country my intention was one day
come back. I have 4 years at here and
I can't go back because I don't have
money. The problem of all Mexican
people is be illegal in this country. too
many people is discrimine, Mexican
people and too many people are aces
with mojados and Latin people. Too
many people die when they tried
crossing the Bravo river. When I saw
the families cried for they children
because they have hungry and cold. I
was sitting in a rock and was starting
cried. On those place I can't cross to
U.S.A. and I move to Agua Prieta.
Where the people is beautiful and there
a person help me with love. That was
the moment when I cross the U.S.A.

- Rigoberto P., Grade: 10
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"Pride"

Every nationality are pride
of they flag and representative
colors. The president, senators
and candidates are the government
The race and language talks
to they friends. The worship is
the soldiers in the war.
The culture is the history and the most
important things in they nationality.

- Gerardo C., Grade: 11
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"The two stranger"

from the same instant we will be two
strangers for afew days. who knows how
many years. I will be in your memory, like
a prohibited book one of those that no
body confesses they read. And tomorrow
when we see each other you will lower
your eyes and walk away and I will
discretly mave to the opposite side. and
light a cigarrete acting like I never saw you
we will be two strangers. From this same
instant, months will go by and you will find
someone that loves you. you are
beautifull, sensitive and loyal maybe you
will marry him. and more then a husband
he will be a friend even though you won't
tell him you dream about me.

- Ernesto V., Grade: 10
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"Amjad"

My name is Amjad.
I came from Pakistan.
I came to the U.S.A.
I came to go to school.
I came to learn different languages.
I came to graduate school.
I came to see my family.
I came to have freedom.
I came here to have a good experience.
I came here to have a good personality.

- Amjad U., Grade: 5
Joan Martin Elementary
Hobart, Indiana

"Money"

Money is a valuable paper,
This paper can give anything you want
Money can made you rich
Money can let you change to another
person
Eachone need that kind of paper.
Eachone can not live without money
Many people died because of money
Money is not all-purpose.
Money can't give you a lovely family
Money can not buy friendship
Money is not going to give you a happily
life.

- Ling C., Grade: 9
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"Flag"

Each flag of the world have a different
meaning.
Like colors, the stick of the flag or animal
drawing in the flag.
The flag for some people is stupid but for
some people not.
The flag represent each country. The
colors of the flag mining something red is
blood, white piece. The flag is the country
because If the country don't have any flag
how you can know what country is.

- Alonso G., Grade: 11
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"The word border"

When you hear the word border the first
things that you think are run, cars the
immigration, and a long walk. People
think that crossing borders is easy, but the
real thing is that only people who is brave
and they want to get a better life. They
are tired of being poor all the time. You
also think about the big river that you
have to swim and also how many people
die there trying to cross to the other side.
The families get sad when they left their
houses.

- Eva A., Grade: 10
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"Just Because"

Just because I'm Indian
Don't laugh at me because I'm different.
Don't think I do not have feelings. Still, try
to be a friend to me.

Just because I'm Indian
It doesn't mean I can't do something you
can. It doesn't mean you can talk about
me. It doesn't stop me from being who I
am.

Just because I'm Indian
Still tell me that I'm different. Can't wait
until later on when I won't care what you
think.

Just because I'm Indian
Try to be a friend.

- Navdeep K., Grade: 6
Hobart Middle School
Hobart, Indiana

"SCHOOL"

So Terrific
Cool, amazing, and fun
Hard, easy and both
Optimist so crazy
Our building
Learned, intelligent teachers

- José R., Grade: 4
Liberty Elementary
Hobart, Indiana

"I Am..."

I am from a different country.
I have a different culture.
I wonder why some people should
discriminate others. I hear voices looking
for someone to comfort them. I see
dreams blocked by fear.
I want someone to understand me.
I am just like you.
I pretend to be brave.
I feel alone inside.
I touch heaven and paradise.
I worry what will happen in the future.
I cry for help.
I am also God's creation.
I understand right and wrong.
I say everybody deserves to be loved.
I dream to reach my goals.
I try to be stronger.
I hope we can have peace.
I am just like you.

- Mika E., Grade: 8
Hobart Middle School
Hobart, Indiana

"ENRIQUE"

Encourage others
Never give up
Remember to do your homework
Inside you have power
Quiet when teachers are talking
Use your brain
Everyone could do anything

- Enrique V., Grade: 2
Ridgeview Elementary
Hobart, Indiana

"Family"

Family
When I was born they cried
With happiness.
Family
Always there for me
Through thick and thin
Family
They make me laugh
So hard that I cry
Family
Never ashamed
Of who we are
Family
Trustworthy
No matter what
Family
Wants me to be happy
For the rest
Of my life
Family
Lovable and caring
Family
The ones that will
Be with me.

- Stephanie P., Grade: 7
Hobart Middle School
Hobart, Indiana

"GOD BLESS AMERICA!"

Mexican I am,
Indian in my blood.
Spanish is my language.
From Spain are my ancestors.
When I look in the mirror.
I like what I see.
I am so Proud,
Proud to be me.
I was born in America.
Therefore, American I stand.
I love my contries,
But most of all,
I love America!

- Jessie R., Grade: 4
Kankakee Valley Intermediate
Wheatfield, Indiana

Untitled

I like to play
Almost every day
I ride my bike
I also like
To fly a kite
I like English
It's different than Spanish
To learn English is fun
Like playing in the sun

- Alexis G., Grade: 3
Jackson Elementary
Seymour, Indiana

"Immigration"

everybody say it is for away.
and it is call American, so my family
left out house behind and go to
America. We take a bus to airplane,
they are many difference people and very
They are crying, eating, jumping
and singing A woman say her grandparent
took a boat on the ocean, and dead in the
ocean, I feel sad about it.

I came to American. Don't worried
Everything. Sat in the airplane,
watch TV and the Time. Wait so
the somebody to servied the food.

- Xiao Yun J., Grade: 9
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"I Am..."

I am
Life, Love, Happiness
I care about my family and life.
Respect is important to me.
Honesty is important to me.
Love is important to me.
Caring for someone is the sweetest thing.
Mean is bad if you hate people,
But can be good if you will be friends.
Life is better is someone is watching you.
Don't give up or else you will lose.
Don't be afraid to try new things..
I am.

- Nika E., Grade: 7
Hobart Middle School
Hobart, Indiana

"How I Felt When I Went to School"

Excited to start school
mom was at work
brothers and sisters took me to school
I cried for my sisters
don't leave
I didn't understand
what kids were saying
Mi maestra habla español...
a little
I didn't want to go back
I felt sick
the second day
I went back
My teacher introduced me to a lady
who spoke Spanish
The lady taught me the ABCs
and how to read just like you

- Gabriela A., Grade: 3
Earhart Elementary
Lafayette, Indiana

"The Color of the Skin"

Black and white two colors very different
just a simple view but in the humanity is
not the exception is an pity that for the
difference of color in the skin
exist until the war and indifferentism
but we don't have to forget that every one
have right to the life, the sun born to all
the people, So we birth, grow and die.

- Susana A., Grade: 10
Jefferson High School
Lafayette, Indiana

"When I Came To America"

My name is Minh Truong.
I came from Vietnam.
I came to have freedom.
I was nervous and scared.
I landed in New Mexico.
I went to school.
I didn't know how to speak English.
Everyone in my class laughed at me.
I kept trying to learn English.

- Minh T., Grade: 5
Joan Martin Elementary
Hobart, Indiana

"About School"

Learning to speak a new language.
Learning how to do homework.
You always have to draw.
Learning is the important thing.
At school you get new friends.
They help you read and write.
It's fun to play games with them.
You get to count to one hundred.
You get to do times and plus.
You get to do even Sign Language.
I like the school and the yellow bus.

- Erika V., Grade: 2
Lincoln Elementary
Warsaw, Indiana